WHAT IS CLAIMED:

Claim 1. A composition for the therapeutic modulation of one or more matrix metalloproteinases comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of at least one metal ion selected from zinc, rubidium, or a combination of ions of zinc and rubidium, in a physiologically inert carrier.

Claim 2. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of calcium ions.

Claim 3. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.

Claim 4. The composition of Claim 2 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.

Claim 5. The composition of Claim 1 and including an acid suitable for adjusting the pH of the composition.

Claim 6. The composition of Claim 5 wherein said acid is citric acid.

Claim 7. The composition of Claim 1 wherein said composition includes polyethylene glycol.

Claim 8. The composition of Claim 1 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.

Claim 9. The composition of Claim 1 comprising a mixture of pharmaceutically effective amounts of each of ions of zinc and rubidium in a physiologically inert carrier, said mixture have a substantially neutral pH.

Claim 10. The composition of Claim 9 wherein said carrier comprises polyethylene glycol.

Claim 11. The composition of Claim 9 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of ions of calcium.

Claim 12. The composition of Claim 9 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.

Claim 13. A composition for demodulating matrix metalloproteinases 2 and/or 9 comprising a pharmaceutically effective amount of a solution containing ions of zinc and rubidium.

Claim 14. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of a channeling agent.

Claim 15. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of potassium ions.

Claim 16. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of calcium ions.

Claim 17. The composition of Claim 13 and including a pharmaceutically effective amount of each of potassium and calcium ions.

Claim 18. The composition of Claim 13 and including polyethylene glycol.

Claim 19. The composition of Claim 13 wherein said composition exhibits a pH of substantially 5.0.

Claim 20. A method for demodulating matrix metalloproteinases 2 and/or 9 comprising the administration of a pharmaceutically effective amount of a solution containing ions of rubidium to a patient in need thereof.

Claim 21. The method of Claim 20 wherein said solution includes zinc ions.

Claim 22. The method of Claim 20 wherein said solution contains a channeling agent.

Claim 23. The method of Claim 21 wherein said solution includes potassium ions.

Claim 23. The method of Claim 21 wherein said solution includes calcium ions.

Claim 24. The method of Claim 20 wherein the pH of said solution is adjusted to about 5.0.

Claim 25. The method of Claim 24 wherein said pH of said solution is adjusted employing citric acid.